

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (canceled)

1 Claim 2 (original): A method for controlling sampling of
2 addressed data, the method comprising:
3 a) determining a state of next hop information
4 defining a destination for samples of addressed data;
5 b) if it is determined that the state of the next hop
6 information is stable, then
7 i) generating samples from the addressed data,
8 and
9 ii) forwarding the samples based on the next hop
10 information; and
11 c) if it is determined that the state of the next hop
12 information is not stable, then not forwarding
13 samples.
14 ~~The method of claim 1 wherein the act of not forwarding~~
15 ~~samples includes dropping samples generated.~~

Claims 3 and 4 (canceled)

1 Claim 5 (currently amended): A method for controlling
2 sampling of addressed data, the method comprising:
3 a) determining a state of next hop information
4 defining a destination for samples of addressed data;
5 b) if it is determined that the state of the next hop
6 information is stable, then
7 i) generating samples from the addressed data,
8 and

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

9 ii) forwarding the samples based on the next hop
10 information; and
11 c) if it is determined that the state of the next hop
12 information is not stable, then not forwarding
13 samples,
14 ~~The method of claim 1~~ wherein the next hop information (A)
15 includes an index or name associated with an interface, (B)
16 is associated with an interface, or (C) is associated with
17 a next hop destination address.

1 Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 5 wherein a link
2 terminated by the interface defines a point-to-point
3 connection with a sample destination device.

Claim 7 (canceled)

1 Claim 8 (currently amended): The method of claim 5
2 wherein a link terminated by the interface defines a
3 point-to-point connection with a sample destination device.

Claim 9 (canceled)

1 Claim 10 (currently amended): A method for controlling
2 sampling of addressed data, the method comprising:
3 a) determining a state of next hop information
4 defining a destination for samples of addressed data;
5 b) if it is determined that the state of the next hop
6 information is stable, then
7 i) generating samples from the addressed data,
8 and
9 ii) forwarding the samples based on the next hop